

Claims:

1. An apparatus for distributing solid particles into a tube, comprising:
a center member; and
5 a plurality of damper members connected to the center member, wherein the plurality of damper members is arranged on the center member to provide substantially circumferential coverage along a longitudinal length of the tube and the damper member itself lacks substantial coverage of a cross section of the tube.
- 10 2. A method for distributing solid particles into a tube, comprising:
positioning a loading tool in an interior of the tube, the loading tool having a center member and a plurality of damper members connected to the center member, wherein the plurality of damper members is arranged on the center member to provide
15 substantially circumferential coverage along a longitudinal length of the tube and the damper member itself lacks substantial coverage of a cross section of the tube;
filling the tube with the solid particles, wherein the solid particles contact the plurality of damper members; and
removing the loading tool from the tube as the solid particles fill the tube.
- 20 3. A method for distributing solid particles into a tube, comprising:
positioning a loading tool in an interior of the tube, the loading tool having a center member and a plurality of damper members connected to the center member, wherein the plurality of damper members is arranged on the center member to provide
25 substantially circumferential coverage along a longitudinal length of the tube and the damper member itself lacks substantial coverage of a cross section of the tube;
filling the tube with the solid particles, wherein the solid particles contact the plurality of damper members;
removing the loading tool from the tube as the solid particles fill the tube; and
utilizing a sensor to communicate the position of a second portion of the center
30 member to a first portion of the center member.

4. The method for distributing solid particles into a tube of claim 3, wherein the second portion of the center member is located at a lowest extremity of the center member.
- 5 5. The method for distributing solid particles into a tube of claim 3, wherein the first portion of the center member is located at an upper portion of the center member.